

IVI-IPO 2015 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE - SECTION 1

DATE 22 Dec 2014 WARD 33

NAME Annisa Wanat

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CAMPAIGN MANAGER Esly Sarmiento

NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED ~1,300 NUMBER REQUIRED 473

Please provide the following background information:

A. Elective or appointive public and/or party offices previously held including dates.

- Appointed as Community Member on LSC for Albany Park Multicultural Academy – Nov. 2013
- Elected as Community Member on LSC for Albany Park Multicultural Academy – Apr. 2014

B. Other elective offices for which you have been a candidate.

- n/a

C. What is your primary occupation?

- Independent Consultant – non-profit management, cross-cultural training

D. Briefly list your civic activities of the past ten years.

- Albany Park Multicultural Academy, Community Rep., LSC, Chicago, IL (*Dec. 2013 – Present*)
- Albany Park Community Center, Adult Education Volunteer, Chicago, IL (*Oct. 2013 – Present*)
- Citizen Bridges International, Event Planning Volunteer, Chicago, IL (*Sept. 2011 – Nov. 2011*)
- Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Election Observer (*Sept. 2006 – Sept. 2011*)
- Chicago Area Peace Corps Association, Membership Chair, Chicago, IL (*Nov. 2007 – April 2008*)
- Friends of Bulgaria, Board Member, Washington, D.C. (*Oct. 2003 – Dec. 2005*)

E. What subjects have you studied and what experience have you had which will be most helpful to you in the office you seek?

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- Bachelors in Education from Miami University
- Master in Public Affairs from Indiana University
- Organizational Development Certificate from DePaul University.

F. What candidates have you supported in past elections? Please be specific in describing your role in each campaign.

- Alderman Waguespack (since 2007, door knocking and e-day poll watching)
- Melanie Ferrand (2014 Democratic Primary for 40th IL State Rep, door knocking and phone banking)
- Will Guzzardi (2014 Democratic Primary, e-day poll watching)

G. Please list all endorsements you have received so far.

- Northside Democracy for America
- Peace Corps to Politics

H. As concisely as possible, state why you feel you should be endorsed over the other candidate(s). What goals for the office you seek are most important to you personally?

The three biggest issues facing Chicago are (1) irresponsible budgeting decision have led to inefficient public service delivery, (2) our leaders have not included the community in neighborhood development decisions, and (3) corruption and nepotism have eroded the public trust. I have 20 years experience in public service, ranging from leading social justice communities in the Midwest as they advocated for poverty alleviation programs to mentoring political and civic leaders around the world to promote good governance practices. I have managed multi-million dollar government contracts, effectively and effectively. I understand that we make better decisions when we make them together and have led communities in discussion on how to prioritize public service needs and develop revitalization plans for their communities. And I have advocated to make governments more accountable – from fostering legislation on strengthening freedom of association and assembly to helping nonprofits monitor and report on government spending. I am the only candidate with both the commitment to being an independent voice to represent the Ward’s best interest **and** the proven track record of helping communities get better public services out of their governments.

I. What is your campaign budget? How much have you raised to date?

- Raised \$18,500
- I have three budgets outlined based on my fundraising - My reality will be between the bare-necessities and mid-range
 - The bare-necessities (small office, one paid staff, 2 consultants, two mailings) = \$25,000
 - The mid-range (two small offices, 3 paid staff, 3 consultants, three mailings) = \$45,000
 - “All-out” (large office, two satellite offices, 4 paid staff, 4 consultants, 4 mailings, polling) = \$68,000

J. How many people are on your campaign staff? How many volunteers are on your list?

- Esly Sarmitnto – (Full-time) Field, Social Media
- James Nally – (Consultant) Election Law
- Kurth/Lampe – (Consultant) Communications/Message

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- Volunteers = 67

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Most questions on this questionnaire can be answered by checking either YES or NO. Others are essay questions and all have the option of answering in greater detail. Just hit enter at the end of the question and begin typing your answer in the additional space.

CITY COUNCIL REFORM AND ETHICS

	YES	NO	
1.		X	Do you favor maintaining the current number of City Council committees? I would like to see the number of Alderman cut in half.
	ESSAY		Which committees, if any, would you combine or eliminate? There are 50 Committees and Joint Committees in City Council. My current alderman's (Mell) committee attendance is about 50% for her assigned committees. So, before eliminating any committees, I would first require aldermanic attendance at the committees. After that, there could be discussion how to combine/eliminate.
2.	ESSAY		What reforms are necessary in the City Council's committee rules and structure? My priorities would be: (1) The aldermen should would together to select committee chairs - like it is done in Congress - instead of them being appointed by the mayor. (2) There should be a time limit on how long an ordinance can sit in the Rules Committee before it is subject to public debate. (3) All major financial decisions (privatization, finance, etc) and city budgets should be the subject of public hearings.
3.	X		Would you give the Inspector General's office independent subpoena power or other compulsory process that can be directed against city officials, agencies and employees without necessitation the approval of the Mayor or Corporation Counsel? There are several ordinances that have been stuck in the City Council's Rules Committee since May 2013, ordinances that would empower the City IG to perform its duties. These include ordinances that would give the IG the ability to enforce subpoenas and would ensure city employee cooperation during investigations. If passed, these ordinances would allow the City IG to be better positioned to conduct thorough investigations on behalf of taxpayers.
4.	X		Should the Inspector General be able to initiate his or her own investigations of Aldermen without a complaint from outside the office?
5.	X		Should the Inspector General be able to pursue anonymous complaints?
6.		X	Do you support patronage in hiring and promoting public employees?
7.		X	Will you employ or have you employed staff, in your office who hold other public sector jobs concurrently?
8.		X	Will you employ or have you employed staff, in your office who have either outside employment or contracts with entities which do business with the City?
9.		X	Will you vote for an ordinance mandating that the City contest unemployment claims by former employees who were fired for cause?
10.	X		Will you vote for an ordinance forbidding the City to hire or contract the services of anyone previously fired for cause from the City or any other unit of government?
11.	X		Will you support an ordinance to reduce the number of wards?
12.			Have you joined or will you join:

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			The Paul Douglas Caucus
			The Independent Progressive Caucus
		X	Both If the two would allow this. If I am forced to choose one, I would join the Progressive Reform Caucus.
13.		X	Do you support changing the state statute to return to filling aldermanic vacancies by special election, rather than Mayoral appointment? I participated in the process to fill the vacancy after Ald. Mell retired and I was disappointed that only one resident of the ward was on the committees. I would prefer vacancies appointed with more input from the constituents, not I don't support a full election because they are costly. A "straw poll" could be organized to narrow it down to 2-3 and then an independent group identify the final appointee (or visa versa, a committee narrows it down and the community does a straw poll).
14.	X		Will you vote for an ordinance requiring redistricting of the wards to be based on non-partisan criteria and not to benefit any specific individual or political party?
15.		X	Will you or have you accepted campaign donations from current or potential suppliers or employees?
16.		X	Will you or have you accepted campaign donations from people or businesses seeking zoning changes in your ward?
	X		Do you support public financing of municipal campaigns?
17.		ESSAY	Please explain your position. I am a strong advocate for public financing of elections – national and local. Our current system allows for too much corruption of the system – as elections become too focused on fundraising, instead of issues, and big donors get undue influence in the political process. In addition, I think there should be FCC requirements on the amount of airtime per candidate allowed – and it should be supplied for free on the public radio and networks. Both of these are common practice in most Western democracies although I respect that at the municipal level, this would probably only be for mayoral candidates.
18.		ESSAY	Who are your top 5 contributors and how much has each contributed to your campaign? Myself, each of my parents, and two siblings have each contributed \$1,000 to the campaign. Annisa Wanat Thomas Wanat Joan Wanat Jennifer Wanat Heather Kash
19.			What changes would you support to the redistricting process? I would support an independent commission be in charge of the process, with both elected and appointed commissioners. The process should require public hearings on proposed maps. New districts should ensure population equity (within a statistical variance); be compact, contiguous,

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		and as small as possible; not be drawn to favor an incumbent's party; and of course, comply with the Voting Rights Act of 1965.
REVENUE AND BUDGET		
20.	X	<p>Will you vote to hire independent analysts to conduct a forensic audit of past City spending?</p> <p>This would depend on deep and how far back the scope of the audit would include.</p>
Will you vote for a budget ordinance which would require:		
21.	X	<p>public questioning of city department heads concerning their departments' specific budget requests?</p> <p>Although I would consider there being criteria for this – for example, new line items only, or line items that are over a specific amount.</p>
22.	X	<p>making budget copies available to the public 30 days in advance of hearings?</p> <p>Open to two weeks instead of 30 days.</p>
23.	X	restoring city-wide community group budget hearings several months prior to the publication of the budget, as were held under the Washington and Sawyer administrations?
24.	ESSAY	<p>What additional revenue sources, if any, would you propose?</p> <p>I would propose congestion tax for the Loop, which would also have a positive impact on traffic and the environment. I will explore a luxury tax for high-end, nonessential goods and services. We also need an analysis of how many city fines, especially environmental fines, go uncollected and what it would cost to start collecting these fines.</p>
25.	X	<p>Do you support casino gambling for Chicago?</p> <p>Casino gambling can have many positive impacts on a city in terms of jobs and city revenue, but it can also have negative social implications as well. Casinos are an issue that should be the subject of vigorous public debate. After hearing from ward and city residents, I would be better able to decide this issue.</p>
26.	X	Will you vote to require a citywide referendum before any gambling is instituted in the City?
27.	X	Will you vote to roll back Mayoral and Aldermanic salaries to pre-2007 levels?
28.	X	Will you vote for an ordinance limiting future Mayoral and Aldermanic salary increases to the same percentage as the lowest raise for any class of city employees?
29.	X	Do you agree with the criticism that City government is top heavy with management?
	ESSAY	<p>Please explain your position.</p> <p>There seem to be a lot of non-management vacant positions in the budget, so either management doesn't know how to hire effectively, or they are using lower positions as budget placeholders and need to be restructured. Departments should be fully staffed to be effective.</p>

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30.	ESSAY		<p>What measures will you vote for to reform the city pension plan and ensure its solvency?</p> <p>In order to identify the money necessary to properly fund our pensions, we need to (1) examine all possible avenues of revenue generation, and (2) streamline government processes. One of the most important steps government leaders in both the city and Springfield need to take in order to regain public trust is to address some key areas about pensions that the public perceives as “unfair.” Based on my discussions with voters, the public wants to see the pensions fully funded for “regular” civil servants, but are frustrated by those they see as “taking advantage” of taxpayers by receiving multiple government-funded pensions, receiving a larger pension payment than their retirement salary, or receiving a pension while in prison. Although these abusers of the system are the exceptions rather than the rule, until these situations are addressed, it will be difficult to have a constructive public debate on what the “least-worst” path forward should be. Although grammatically questionable, “least-worst” is the only way to describe any proposed solutions to our pension crisis.</p>
31	ESSAY		<p>How would you modify (if at all) the benefit and contribution levels and eligibility requirements for public employee pensions?</p> <p>Based on conversations with ward voters, everyone agrees that once retired, benefits should not be changed, but there is no consensus on current and future employees. As alderman, I will be an honest voice about the pension situation and to fight to ensure that those that have paid into the system get treated fairly and that taxpayers are also not left to pay the entire bill.</p>
32.	Choose One		Should discretionary funds for ward services and infrastructure improvements be allocated
	X		in equal amounts to each ward
			based on the size of each ward
			based on the needs of each ward
	YES	NO	
33.	X		<p>Will you institute participatory budgeting to allow ward residents to vote on discretionary spending in your ward?</p> <p>I have worked with participatory budgeting – in the formula that Ald. Arena uses – in other places. I would not use this exact model, but one that is more time and cost-efficient, but still allows for citizen input into how a large portion of menu funds are spent.</p>
PRIVATIZATION			
34.	ESSAY		<p>Which city services or assets, if any, do you believe should be privatized and what is your criteria?</p> <p>There should be a moratorium on privatizing city assets until City Council passes the Privatization Transparency and Accountability Ordinance to require a complete analysis of any privatization program. And after it is passed, all aldermen should also be able to request legislative analysis through the Office of Financial Analysis (COFA) to help guide their decisions. Finally, large scale privatization of public assets should be subject to public debate.</p>
35.	X		Will you vote for an ordinance requiring an independent analysis of any lease or outsourcing

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		arrangement?
36.	X	Will you vote for an ordinance requiring detailed analysis and evaluation of any lease or outsourcing arrangement at least 30 days prior to the City Council vote?
37.	ESSAY	<p>Before voting on privatization contracts, what will you do to ensure that they deliver the maximum return and best service for city residents in the long term?</p> <p>See question 34.</p>
38.	ESSAY	<p>What procedures will you implement to ensure that privatization arrangements are not being used to move patronage workers outside of the scope of the Rutan decision requirements or any other anti-patronage rules or protocols?</p> <p>I oppose the privatization of essential public services until the Privatization Transparency and Accountability Ordinance is passed by the City Council. If this is passed, then polices should be put in place to ensure than patronage jobs are not being diverted to the public sector be requiring the private entities be subject to the same anti-patronage policies that apply to the city - such as the do-not-hire list and other aspects of the Shakman decree.</p>
PLANNING, ZONING, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT		
39.	ESSAY	<p>How will you involve ward residents in planning?</p> <p>At the start of my term (or before if possible), I will hold a series of meetings around the ward on such issues and zoning, small business development, job creation, wrap-around services, TIF funds, community spaces, neighborhood schools, and infrastructure (to name a few). The results will be these discussions will be used to develop a revitalization plan for the ward – and be used to guide development of the ward. This revitalization plan will include processes for zoning review and the distribution of menu funds. As individual planning questions come up, neighborhood groups will be consulted to see if there are situations that do not fall under these guiding principles and if necessary, townhall meetings will be held. Finally, the plan will be reviewed annually and updated after a public input period.</p>
40.	ESSAY	<p>What is your long-range plan for development of the ward?</p> <p>See above. The development of a revitalization plan is central to my platform and will include discussions on both short and long-term revitalization for the ward.</p>
41.	ESSAY	<p>What criteria do you or will you use in determining whether or not to grant a zoning change or variance?</p> <p>Zoning changes and variances should be the exception and not the rule when it comes to development in our neighborhoods. Unfortunately, previous 33rd Ward Alderman placed moratoriums on different kinds of licensing all over the ward so in some cases, these may need to be lifted. These discussions, as well as the standards for zoning in general, will be discussed in townhalls on the revitalization plan. The standards will be posted on my website and the same for everyone - similar to the process currently in place in the 32nd Ward.</p>

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42.	ESSAY	How will you involve residents in planning, approval, and oversight of TIF districts? See above. Guidelines for the use of TIF funds will be included in the revitalization plan for the ward.
43.	X	Will you vote to terminate a TIF if the objectives of the TIF plan have been accomplished before the 23 year period is ended?
44.	X	Will you vote to return unspent and uncommitted TIF funds on an annual basis to the various taxing bodies?
45.	ESSAY	How do you propose to replace property tax revenue for CPS and other taxing bodies that is lost to TIF development?
46.	X	Will you support a moratorium on creation of any new TIF districts until new funding sources are identified to replace the revenue diverted to the TIF?
47.	X	Will you vote for an ordinance requiring that large corporate entities receiving \$250,000 or more in public subsidies, and their tenants, must pay their workers a living wage (currently \$11/hour)?
48.	X	Will you vote to invest substantially more in job-training and the creation of transitional job programs in disadvantaged communities, including the formerly incarcerated, homeless, youth, and non-English speakers?
HOUSING		
49.	X	Will you vote to amend the Vacant Properties Ordinance to require mortgage servicers to register their properties? It is unfortunate that court's ruled that Chicago's Vacant Property Ordinance does not apply to lending agencies such as Freddie May and Freddie Mac. Although they can afford to ignore the property, their neighbors may not be able to weather the negative impact these unmaintained properties have on development and public safety in their neighborhoods. As alderman, I would fight for the rights of homeowners against aggressive lending agencies and absentee landlords. I would also promote the use of land trusts to help combat these issues.
50.	X	Do you support enacting an ordinance to preserve Single-Room Occupancy housing? I support the SRO Ordinance that passed City Council November 2014.
51.	X	Will you vote for an inclusionary zoning ordinance requiring developers to set aside 30% of residential new construction or renovation for the creation of affordable housing? Although I personally support this type of ordinance for my ward, based on conversations with voters, there is mixed support for this in the community. This is the type of legislation that I would want to have a series of town hall meetings on - in multiple. I would use this as an opportunity to explain why I support it, and listen to thoughts and concerns from residents. It is only after rigorous public debate that I could know how to vote on this to best represent the desires of my ward.
52.	ESSAY	What measures will you support to guarantee that some of the foreclosed properties saved through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program are made affordable to families at 40% and 60% of AMI?

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		<p>The Neighborhood Stabilization Program requires that 25% of the properties be targeted to families that are below 50% AMI. I would work with organizations such as Communities United (formerly APNC), ONENorthside, and Bickerdike to assess the best way to increase this proportion and increase the threshold to 60% while still meeting the regulations set out in this federally-funded program.</p>	
53.	ESSAY	<p>What procedures and safeguards would you put in place on conversion/demolition of SRO's and other low income housing to ensure that affordable housing will continue to be available for low income tenants who would otherwise be displaced?</p> <p>I support the SRO Ordinance that passed City Council November 2014. I would work with organizations such as Communities United (formerly APNC), ONENorthside, and Bickerdike to assess the best way build on these ordinance. In addition, because the fear of losing affordable housing is increasing in my ward, I would discussions on this topic, as well as Section 8, and how to reach currently underserved communities as one of the key components to the revitalization plan for the ward.</p>	
54.	ESSAY	<p>What measures will you support to ensure that there is an adequate supply of affordable family sized units available to families in the Section 8 program?</p> <p>See #53.</p>	
55.	ESSAY	<p>What measures will you support to provide affordable housing for low-income individuals and families who are not served by any existing programs?</p> <p>See #53.</p>	
	YES	NO	Do you support any of the following to be built in your ward?
56.	X		low income rental housing that is affordable to those at 15% to 30% of AMI?
57.	X		supportive housing for people overcoming addiction and other problems which contribute to homelessness?
58.	X		shelters for the homeless?
59.	X		Do you favor a moratorium on the conversion or demolition of SRO's pending the development of protections and remedies to protect the displaced tenants from becoming homeless?
60.		X	Do you support allowing the demolition of existing public housing units without new or rehabilitated replacement housing on a one-for-one basis?
61.	Choose One		Which standard should the City use to define affordable housing?
			AMI of the Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area
			AMI of Cook County
	X		AMI of Chicago
			AMI of the Community Area
EDUCATION			
62.	Choose One		Which of the following options for choosing the School Board do you support?
			Popular Election
			Mayoral appointment from nominations made by community representatives
			Maintaining the current system of Mayoral appointment
	X		A mix of elected and appointed members

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	YES	NO	
63.	X		Will you support a city-wide lottery for enrollment in magnet schools?
64.	X		Will you support LSCs in maintaining full powers, and support them through adequate funding levels that provide training and support for LSCs to do their jobs?
65.	X		Will you support a moratorium on school closings until a detailed analysis of the impacts of shuffling children is completed, and a real plan to address the quality of education and safety for every child is in place?
66.	X		Will you support development and implementation of a more comprehensive and accurate approach to evaluate student and teacher performance than reliance on the SAT and ACT tests?
67.	X		Would you favor repealing (or modifying) the 70% requirement for voting to authorize teacher strikes?
68.	ESSAY		<p>What is your assessment of Renaissance 2010 and its implementation in your ward as well as the City as a whole? Please include in your assessment the role of charter schools as well as the power to reconstitute schools.</p> <p>Renaissance 2010 sought to close public schools and open charter schools. Although the 33rd Ward did not have any schools closed, the mass school closings were disruptive for us, and the entire city. In addition to the communities that were directly affected by the closing, city workers were dragged from regular positions all over the city to serve on safe passage routes. The push for charter schools upsets our educational process unnecessarily and also threatens public safety a community's safety as neighbors don't spend as much time together if their children aren't studying together.</p>
69.	ESSAY		<p>What should the City do to improve the quality of all local schools?</p> <p>In order to improve the quality of all school Chicago needs to develop a more equitable education system; we need to have elected representatives on the school board, increased public oversight of the CPS budget. We also need a moratorium on new charter schools until neighborhood schools have enough funding to reduce class sizes. Finally, we can increase funding by passing TIF Surplus Ordinance that has been stuck in committee; so unallocated funds are annually returned to the general account and therefore providing funding for our schools.</p>
70.	ESSAY		<p>What are your plans to improve the local schools in your ward?</p> <p>See #69</p>
71.	ESSAY		<p>How would you modify (if at all) the benefit and contribution levels and eligibility requirements for public school teacher pension?</p> <p>Based on conversations with ward voters, everyone agrees that once retired, benefits should not be changed, but there is no consensus on current and future employees. As alderman, I will be an honest voice about the pension situation and to fight to ensure that those that have paid into the system get treated fairly and that taxpayers are also not left to pay the entire bill.</p>
ENVIRONMENT			
72.	X		Will you vote for the Clean Power Ordinance?

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			This ordinance was passed in February of 2012
73.	X		Will you vote to privatize Chicago's water delivery system?
74.	X		Will you vote to ban Styrofoam food containers in Chicago public schools?
75.	X		Will you vote to ban Styrofoam food containers in Chicago restaurants and food delivery services?
76.	X		Will you vote to adopt the water quality standards recommended by the Pollution Control Board?
77.	ESSAY		<p>What should the City do to encourage and implement alternative forms of energy?</p> <p>We need to start fitting buildings for solar as they are built and/or refurbished.</p>
78.	ESSAY		<p>What other environmental initiatives, if any, do you propose?</p> <p>An environmental caucus in the city council.</p>
PARKS			
79.	X		Do you support election of the Chicago Park District Board?
80.		X	Do you support increased privatization of park facilities and services?
	ESSAY		<p>Why or why not?</p> <p>I oppose the privatization of essential public services until the Privatization Transparency and Accountability Ordinance is passed by the City Council.</p>
81.		X	Do you support prioritization of land acquisition and capital improvements first to those neighborhoods which are underserved by existing facilities?
TRANSPORTATION			
82.	X		Will you vote to increase the City subsidy to the CTA?
83.	Rank 1-5 or say no to any		Please indicate which CTA expansion plans, if any, you support and rank them in order of priority (1 highest)
		2/3	Red Line south to 130th Street
		2/3	Orange Line to Ford City Mall
		4	Downtown Circulator
		5	Downtown-O'Hare Express
	1		<p>Other – please specify</p> <p>Brown Line extension to the blue line is a priority for my ward.</p>
	YES	NO	
84.	X		Do you support renegotiation of Chicago's parking meter privatization deal?
85.		X	Do you support privatization of Midway Airport?
86.		X	<p>Do you support the O'Hare expansion plan?</p> <p>Several of the east-west flight paths go through the ward and have disturbed our neighborhood. We need to look at re-opening the diagonal run-ways to lessen the noise pollution in our ward.</p>

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE		
87.	X	Is 911 response time adequate?
	ESSAY	<p>If not, how can it be improved?</p> <p>We must stop relying on our officers to commit to overtime in order to provide the policing we need. This policy has resulted in overruns in our overtime budget and leads to burnout in our police force. At a minimum, this leads to high turn-over in the force, but in the worst case, it can lead to poor on-the-job decision making due to fatigue, which in this profession could have deadly consequences. We need to hire and train a larger police force – even if this is more expensive than the overtime option – it is the more responsible decision.</p>
88.	X	Are there inequities in 911 service in your ward?
	ESSAY	<p>If so, what can be done to redress them?</p> <p>See above</p>
89.	X	<p>Do you support re-allocating police services from low-crime to high-crime neighborhoods?</p> <p>See above, we need to hire more people rather than move them.</p>
90.	ESSAY	<p>What changes, if any, would you suggest for the CAPS program?</p> <p>CAPS meetings are a great place for residents to discuss their concerns about public safety with their local police officers. Unfortunately, these meetings are not always conveniently timed/located to maximize attendance. As alderman, I will work with the district commanders and their teams to foster more interactions between the CPD and the community. Possibilities include holding regular positive loitering events and facilitating police participation in other community meetings, such as at parent nights at local schools, at neighborhood groups meetings, or at other community social events.</p>
91.	X	Will you vote for more funding for alternative crime prevention programs such as Cease Fire?
92.	ESSAY	<p>What measures will you support to stop the schools to prison pipeline?</p> <p>There are many important approaches that can taken to address this problem. Some are discussed in detail here, others are just listed.</p> <p>(1) Strengthening neighborhood schools - Sending students to schools outside of our communities threatens public safety; when neighborhoods send their children away to school, parents are less likely to know their children's friends and parents. Strengthening neighborhood schools means that fewer students will travel for school and more neighborhood children will study and play together. Strong neighborhood schools increase interaction among neighbors and, as a result, can reduce the influence of gangs in a community.</p> <p>(2) Promote neighborhood schools as community centers – Encourage their use as community centers by offering more after-school and adult programs.</p> <p>(3) Better mental health services in our schools.</p> <p>(4) Promote restorative justice programs in our schools.</p>

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93.	X		Do you support gun control?
94.	ESSAY		What measures, if any, should the City Council adopt in response to recent court decisions striking down Chicago's handgun ban?
95.	X		<p>Will you vote to order the City to stop paying legal fees and attempt to recover past legal costs of city employees implicated in the Police Board findings of misconduct related to the Burge case?</p> <p>This does not mean reparations should not be paid, but there should be an effort made to get money back from the perpetrators, rather than only the tax payers footing the bill.</p>
96.	ESSAY		<p>Please share your views regarding the functioning of the Independent Police Review Authority and whether it should operate more independently of the Police Department.</p> <p>The IPRA was created to increase accountability of the Police Department in terms of how it dealt with complaints filed against CPD officers. Analysis of the IPRA by the Criminal Justice Project reported that IPRA's findings against police officers did not deviate much from the previous review board. In light of the Burge scandal and in a post-Ferguson environment, it is imperative that any review board be seen as independent and effective and as such, some changes need to be made. A few recommendations (from CPJ and Council of Lawyers) include: (1) The IPRA should fill its vacant positions so it can fully execute its duties. (2) A yearly report should be issued with the names of those officers that receive the most complaints - and even if it isn't possible - at a minimum, this report should be available to aldermen. (3) More transparent information available to the public about the number of officer involved shootings. If these are not possible given, then we can also consider a more independent review board - such as a Civilian Police Accountability Council some advocates are requesting.</p>
CIVIL RIGHTS			
97.	X		<p>Do you support affirmative action based on race, gender and sexual orientation in establishing criteria for hiring and promoting public employees?</p> <p>Policies should reflect the demographics of Chicago and are reviewed after every census.</p>
98.	X		<p>Do you support affirmative action as a criteria in letting city contracts?</p> <p>Although only with appropriate oversight mechanisms in place. Concerns include: (1) Ensuring that minority-owned firms are not being used as a front for subcontracting (2) The criteria should not be "minority-owed" as much as managed and that more than 50% of the laborers are minorities.</p>
99.	ESSAY		<p>Please comment on current participation of individuals with disabilities in city hiring and contracts.</p> <p>We should always aim to encourage more participation of persons with disabilities in city hiring and contracts. One way to do this would be to reach out to veterans groups and see how to best include disabled veterans in the process.</p>
100.	ESSAY		<p>Please comment on current women and minority participation in city hiring and contracts. Be sure your comments include firefighter and police officer recruitment and promotion.</p>

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			<p>Regarding hiring and contracts, see #97 & #98.</p> <p>Regarding firefighter and police, we need to work to recruit more women and minorities as these departments are on the front lines of helping the public and should reflect the makeup of its residents.</p>
101.	X		Do you favor restructuring the wage scale of city employees to institute gender-equal pay for jobs of comparable worth?
102.	X		Will you vote to require all City vendors and contractors to provide spousal benefits for same-sex partners of their employees?
103.		X	Will you vote for the Municipal ID ordinance?
	ESSAY		<p>Why or why not?</p> <p>I am concerned that creating ID cards that exist primarily for immigrants who cannot meet requirements for other forms of ID creates a class that can be informally be discriminated against.</p>
ALDERMANIC PRIORITIES			
104.	ESSAY		<p>What employment, if any, other than alderman, do you intend to hold?</p> <p>None.</p>
105.	ESSAY		<p>How will you divide your time between your aldermanic duties and your other occupation?</p> <p>n/a</p>
106.	ESSAY		<p>Please specify the minimum hours per week you will spend performing your aldermanic duties.</p> <p>Other jobs I have held that were similar to the scope and scale in terms of needing to be responsive to the public and providing public services, I anticipate a six-day workweek of 10-12 hours a day. I would always be available for longer hours in case of emergencies.</p>
107.	ESSAY		<p>Please describe your service office staffing plan, including the number of staff, full and part time, how you will pay for them, and the number of hours per week that your service office will be open.</p> <p>Aldermen are allotted a budget for a staff and an office, but based on conversations with sitting aldermen, it usually needs to be supplemented by campaign funds to ensure proper staffing. I aim to have 3 FT employees (chief-of-staff, policy, and constituent relations) paid for with city funds. To supplement, I will utilize interns (from both colleges and high schools) and neighborhood volunteers to help answer phones, to help research policy issues, translate materials, and to do intake on constituent relations concerning issues in the ward. Based on fundraising, additional part-time assistance for outreach and special projects. In addition, to regular office hours (9a – 5p), I would have evening office hours one day per week – held both in the office and different places around the ward so that it is easier for residents to attend. Finally, I would do regular Saturday office at least once a month in grocery stores and other high-traffic venues – aimed at engaging non-English speaking communities.</p>

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108.	ESSAY	<p>What services need improvement in your ward? How will you achieve this?</p> <p>The response for public service requests has slowed down with the current alderwoman took over in 2013. Listing them would be too numerous. To begin with, I would standardize the process for requesting services through 311 – the current staff don't have a policy and some try to submit the requests themselves, others ask residents to do it and forward the info to the ward for follow up, the alderwoman is also inconsistent. I have worked with many organizations (both public and private) on developing a constituent relations database to track activities (such as service requests, volunteer work, etc). I will do this in the Ward office so that I can better follow up with both residents and departments to track their process. Finally, I would work to manage expectations and post standard response times for the "usual" service requests (potholes, graffiti, sidewalk repair, etc.).</p>
109.	ESSAY	<p>What are your top priorities for the Ward?</p> <p>I will fight for a responsible budget so we can improve public services in our neighborhoods. I will use my organizing and community development experience to develop a revitalization plan – in coordination with the community – so we can work together to build a stronger Ward. Finally, I will promote legislation to ensure transparency and accountability to reestablish trust in government.</p>
110.	ESSAY	<p>How will you work with community groups and residents on City matters?</p> <p>To increase public trust, we need more aldermen who recognize that we make better decisions when we make them together. As alderman, I will hold public discussions on the important issues that face our city, such as the annual budget, TIF reform, strengthening neighborhood schools, and addressing our pension obligations. By providing more opportunities for citizens to have input into the process, we will generate more ideas on how to address important policy issues and increase public trust in our elected officials.</p>